



*An Unsullied Mangrove Paradise!!
Home for the elusive fishing cat
& otters and a major nesting site
for the Olive Ridley Turtles.*



CORINGA

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



ABOUT THE SANCTUARY



LOCATION	Andhra Pradesh, India
NEAREST AIRPORT	Rajahmundry.
NEAREST CITY	Kakinada (18 km away)
AREA	235.7 km ² (58,200 acres)
NOTIFIED	July 5, 1978



Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary comprises of the rich mangrove growth lying in the Godavari river delta in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The rivers Coringa and Gaderu and their deltaic branches intersect the region, along with other water creeks. About half of the area is backwater. It also includes a sand pit of 18km stretch which is famous by the name of Hope Island.



Coringa has the second largest surviving stretch of mangrove forests along the East coast of India with 36 mangrove species, and more than 180 bird species. It is home for the elusive fishing cat and is a nesting site for the Olive Ridley Turtles.



MAP OF THE SANCTUARY

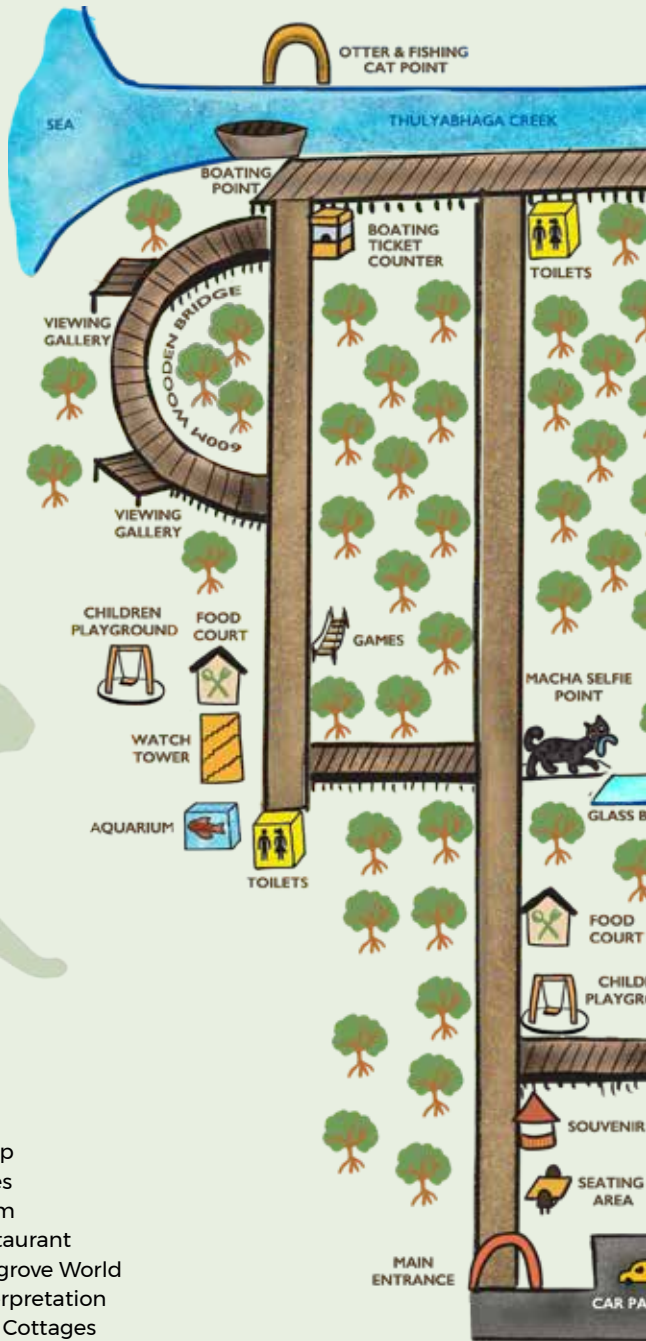


LEGENDS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------|
|  | WILDERNESS ZONE |  | ECOTOURISM ZONE |
|  | SPECIAL USE ZONE |  | MANGROVE SWAMP |
|  | ECOTOURISM ZONE OR NATURE INTERPRETATION CENTRE |  | SWAMP |
|  | TERRESTRIAL BUFFER |  | VILLAGE/TOWN |

*MAP NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

ECOTOURISM ZONE



ATTRACTIONS

- Watch Tower
- Souvenir Shop
- Nature Guides
- Fish Aquarium
- Wooden Restaurant
- Coringa Mangrove World Campus: Interpretation Building and Cottages

TIMINGS :

9:am to 5 pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

ENTRY FEE :

Adults: Rs 10, Kids: Rs 5,

TEMPERATURE 1

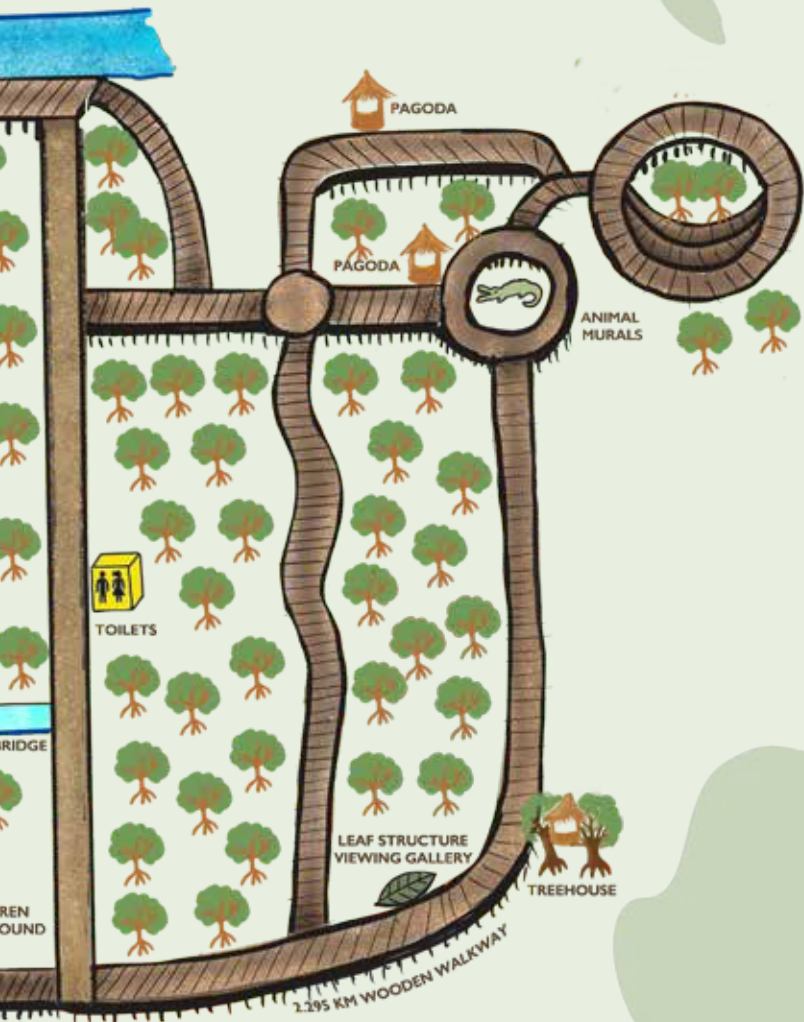
7°C to 40°C

AVERAGE RAINFALL

> 1000 mm

BEST TIME TO VISIT

The Park welcomes you throughout the year. Weather conditions are best from Oct to May.



SHOP

CORINGA INTERPRETATION CENTRE

MANGROVE GENETIC RESOURCE CONSERVATION CENTRE



TO CHOLLANGI ECOTOURISM AREA (CORINGA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY)

CORINGA MANGROVE WORLD COMPLEX



TO KAKINADA

~ 8 km

TO AMALAPURAM

BIODIVERSITY



As tides bring in rich nutrients wherein sea and freshwater meet, the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary supports an impressive diversity of flora and fauna. It is home to 35 species of mangroves, 14 species of mammals, 188 species of avian fauna, 80 species of mangrove-dependent fish, 25 species of crabs and 14 species of molluscs.

FLORA

Coringa is home to 35 species of mangroves, of which 16 are true mangroves, and the rest are associated species. The species commonly found are:



Avicennia officinalis



Avicennia marina



Avicennia alba



Aegiceras corniculatum



Bruguiera gymnorhiza



Ceriops decandra



Excoecaria agallocha



Hibiscus tiliaceus



Lumnitzera recemosa



Rhizophora mucronata



Rhizophora conjugata



Sonneratia apetala

Some of the shrubs found in the sanctuary are:

Dalbergia spinosa, *Derris trifoliata*. Herbs like *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Suaeda maritima*, *Suaeda monoica* and *Salicornia brachiata*.

BIRDS

The sanctuary possesses over 188 species of birds, due to the rich feed in the backwater of the mangrove forest. During low tide some of the areas (elevated mud flats) are exposed with fish, shrimps and molluscs, attracting birds. Significant populations of waders and water birds are present here, including several migratory species.



Indian Skimmer

Some critically endangered species like White-backed Vulture, and Long Billed Vulture have been sighted in the sanctuary. The Painted Stork, Oriental White Ibis and Ferruginous Pochard found in the sanctuary are near threatened species, and Spot billed Pelican is a Vulnerable specie.



Great Knot



Eurasian Curlew



Greater sand plover



Blackcapped kingfisher



Ruddy Turnstone



Garganey

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES

The 18 km long sand stretch in the sanctuary along Hope Island and Sacramento Island is one of the major nesting grounds for Olive-Ridley Turtles. Each female turtle lays 100-150 eggs in a pit dug by it carefully and leaves.



Adult Turtle (Female)

Six weeks later, the hatched turtles start the journey to their Indian Ocean habitat. Feb-March is the best time to observe the hatchlings. Conservation efforts are



Hatchling



Hatcheries

ongoing for these hatchlings, both in-situ and ex-situ, employing the local fishermen community.

FISHING CAT

Coringa provides a safe haven for a thriving population of the elusive fishing cat, listed as endangered by the IUCN Red List. The estimated



number of fishing cats in Coringa WLS and adjoining mangroves is 115 as per the census carried out by APFD in 2019. The mangroves provide an ideal habitat for this cat to hunt its favourite prey- fish.

OTHER FAUNA

Endangered and threatened animals find a sustainable environment in the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary to flourish in peace. The mangroves of Coringa are also home to another fish-dependent mammal – the smooth-coated otter. Other important species of animals found here are Indian golden jackal, rhesus macaque, jungle cat, and a plethora of reptiles such as spot-tailed pit vipers, cat snakes, dog-faced snakes. The waters of the mangrove forests support several varieties of fish, molluscs, crustaceans, and other marine animals.



Indian golden jackal



Smooth coated otters



Red ghost Crab



Bamboo Pit viper



Mud skippers

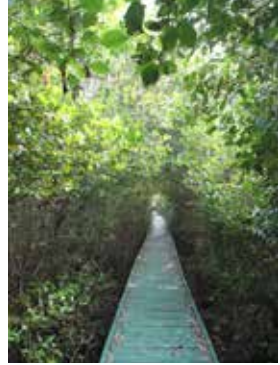


Yellow fiddler crab

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

MANGROVE BOARDWALK

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary has one of the longest wooden mangroves boardwalk in the country. One can walk through the serene mangrove forest canopy on walkways made of wooden planks built over a marshy terrain. While walking, one can spot several birds and other lifeforms dependent on mangroves for survival like mud skimmer, red mangrove crabs etc as well as appreciate the unique mangrove ecosystem.



BOATING

One can enjoy boating in the estuaries. Boating through the green, dense forests and the vibrant marshy



ecosphere is an exhilarating experience. Trips to Hope Island, Old Light House, mouth of the Bay of Bengal and creeks are organised from Chollangi ecotourism area.

WATCH TOWER

A magnificent bird's eye view of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary can be enjoyed at the watch tower. Tourists can appreciate the vast stretch of dense mangroves from the watch tower top.



NATURE SHOP



Coringa Nature Shop is at Chollangi ecotourism area. Here visitors can purchase good quality souvenir items as a token of memory or gifts that will always serve as reminders of the beautiful Coringa.

WOODEN RESTAURANT

A wooden platform restaurant situated in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary serves delicious food and snacks to the visitors. Enjoy the flavours of Coringa!



MACHA SELFIE POINT

Macha, the Fishing Cat is the mascot of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary. A large cut out of Macha awaits to have a selfie with you. Come, click yourself with the Macha!

FISHING CAT & OTTER POINT

Fishing Cat and Otter Point is located opposite to the boating jetty at Coringa. It is one of the best places to sight a fishing cat or smooth coated otter. You never know when you get lucky and sight such elusive wildlife here!



FISH AQUARIUM

A fish aquarium has been established where you can glimpse at the attractive fish and other aquatic fauna.



HOPE ISLAND



Hope Island, a part of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, is a tadpole-shaped elongated sand bar, located off the coast of Kakinada, in the Bay of Bengal. It is a natural barrier that protects the city of Kakinada from the Bay of Bengal. The island is pretty young as it was formed in the late 18th century, by the deposition of sediments of Coringa River, a tributary of the Godavari River. To reach

the island, hop on to APFD-operated tourist boats from the Chollangi eco-tourism area, an opportunity not to be missed!



MGRCC (MANGROVE GENETIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION CENTRE)



Mangroves are unique flora, instrumental in protecting the coasts from storms, floods etc and hence need to be preserved. With an aim of preserving mangroves, the Mangrove Genetic Resources Conservation Centre (MGRCC) has been established in the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary . 25 mangrove species, from different parts of the country, have been established there. Vegetative propagation of species, which have low seed viability like *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*, has also been undertaken.

CORINGA MANGROVE WORLD

Coringa Mangrove World is a beautiful campus located on the Kakinada- Amalapuram highway. It has been developed by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department (APFD). Coringa Mangrove World has a biodiversity



centre that serves as the Interpretation Centre for Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary. There is also a good accommodation facility with 3 cottages and 1 suite, which can be availed by the tourists. A canteen is also operational there to ensure good food arrangements.



ECOTOURISM

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary has been developed as an ecotourism site of international standards, based on the concept of community-based tourism creating employment opportunities for the neighbouring villages. It is run by the local fishermen community here. All the funds generated from the eco tourism go solely for the purpose of development of tourism and community development.

DO'S & DON'T'S



Polythene and plastics are prohibited.



Do not cook, smoke or light a fire in the forest.



Use public toilets.



Do not litter in the forest, carry it home.



Do not play music in the Sanctuary.



Do not disturb wild animals.

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT:

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